

Special Egress Control Devices

(Excerpt from the Uniform Building Code, Washington State Amendments)

Exit doors may be equipped with approved listed special egress-control devices, provided the building is protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system and an approved automatic smoke-detection system. Such devices shall conform to all of the following:

1. Automatically deactivate the egress-control device upon activation of either the sprinkler system or the detection system.
2. Automatically deactivate the egress-control device upon loss of electrical power to any one of the following:
 - 2.1 The egress-control device.
 - 2.2 The smoke-detection system.
 - 2.3 Exit illumination.
3. Be capable of being deactivated by a signal from a switch located in an approved location.
4. Initiate an irreversible process which will deactivate the egress-control device whenever a manual force of not more than 15 pounds is applied for two seconds to the panic bar or other door-latching hardware. The egress-control device shall deactivate within an approved time period not to exceed a total of 15 seconds. The time delay established for each egress-control device shall not be field adjustable.
5. Actuation of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware shall activate an audible signal at the door.
6. The unlatching shall not require more than one operation.

A sign shall be provided on the door located above and within 12 inches of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware reading:

**KEEP PUSHING. THE DOOR WILL OPEN IN ____
SECONDS. ALARM WILL SOUND.**

Sign letter shall be at least 1 inch in height and shall have a stroke of not less than 1/8 inch.

Regardless of the means of deactivation, relocking of the egress-control device shall be by manual means only at the door.

EXCEPTION: Special units for the care of dementia patients in nursing homes which are identified and approved by the state agency licensing such units, may use special egress-control devices where a panic bar is not part of the egress-control mechanism.

Sec. 1004.5, State Building Code

- OVER PLEASE -

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR PLAN REVIEWS:

1. EXISTING FACILITIES:

- A. Technical data sheets for each device used in the system.
- B. A plan showing the location of each device used in the system and the location of all exitways. The plans should indicate conformity with the following:
 - a. Devices will unlock upon activation of either the sprinkler system or the detection system.
 - b. Devices will unlock upon loss of electrical power to the egress-control device, the smoke-detection system, or exit illumination.
 - c. Be capable of being deactivated by a signal from a switch located in an approved location. (In Group I Occupancies: Respective nurses' station. In LC Occupancies: An attended location such as reception.
 - d. Initiate an irreversible process which will deactivate the egress-control device whenever a manual force of not more than 15 pounds is applied for two seconds to the panic bar or other door-latching hardware. The egress-control device shall deactivate within an approved time period not to exceed a total of 15 seconds. The time delay established for each egress-control device shall not be field adjustable. NOTE: Key pads can only be approved for use in special units for the care of dementia patients in nursing homes. Key pads may be used in other occupancies for staff ingress and egress only if the appropriate devices as described above are provided.
 - e. Actuation of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware shall activate an audible signal at the door.
 - f. The unlatching shall not require more than one operation. A sign shall be provided on the door located above and within 12 inches of the panic bar or other door-latching hardware reading: KEEP PUSHING. THE DOOR WILL OPEN IN __SECONDS. ALARM WILL SOUND. Sign letter shall be at least 1 inch in height and shall have a stroke of not less than 1/8 inch.
 - g. Regardless of the means of deactivation, relocking of the egress-control device shall be by manual means only at the door.
- C. A copy of the latest yearly fire sprinkler system certification report.
- D. Verification that fire sprinkler heads are residential or quick-response.
- E. A copy of the latest yearly fire alarm certification report.
- F. Verification that client sleeping rooms (LC Occupancies or patient sleeping rooms (I 1.1 Occupancies) are provided with approved smoke detectors. Actuation of smoke detectors in Group I Occupancies shall cause a visual display on the corridor side of the room in which the detector is located and shall cause an audible and visual alarm at the respective nurses' station.
- G. Verification that special units for the care of dementia patients in nursing homes have been identified and approved by the Department of Social and Health Services.

2. NEW FACILITIES:

- A. Technical data sheets for each device used in the system.
- B. A plan showing the location of each device used in the system and the location of all exitways. (Also see 1. B. a through g above).
- C. The fire sprinkler system and fire alarm system plans must be approved prior to review of the plans for special egress-control devices.
- D. Verification that special units for the care of dementia patients in nursing homes have been identified and approved by the Department of Social and Health Services.